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In response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 10, 2003, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/AMAT/3083.P6/AOP, \$516.00 for excess claim fees, and any additional amount for other fees, including extension of time fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

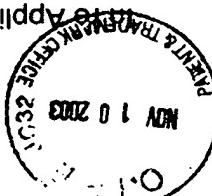
Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 8, 2003

Signature	Date
	
Alan L. Baumgardner	
Nr. 6,2003	
for Patients, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:	
November 6, 2003 with the United States Postal Service as	
an envelope addressee.	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on	
37 CFR 1.8.	
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	

Dear Sir:

Serial No.: 09/684,856
Hunter et al.
Information No.: 2780
Field: October 6, 2000
For: Methods for Continuous Embedded Process Monitoring
and Optical Inspection of Substrates Using Spherical



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attn: Dr. No. AMAT/3083.PG/PDC/PDCOR
PATIENT